

## **RIPTA to Hold Public Hearings on Proposed Fare Increases**

### **Avoiding Service Cuts, New Deficit Reduction Plan Includes Fare Hikes**

#### **Monthly Pass Fare Would Remain the Same**

#### **Hearings Scheduled for December 20 to December 23**

**in Providence, Warwick, Barrington, Newport and Narragansett**

**PROVIDENCE, RI, November 17, 2004...The board of directors of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) voted today to hold public hearings on proposed fare increases in all five Rhode Island counties on December 20, December 21, December 22 and December 23, 2004. The Authority announced that the proposed fare hikes are part of a new budget deficit plan to eliminate a 1.9 million dollar deficit for FY 2005, which began on July 1, 2004. The proposed fare increases would raise the base fare from \$1.25 to \$1.50, bring the trolley fare in line with the rest of the system and leave the cost of a monthly bus pass unchanged. The new fare increases would also allow passengers to transfer between the Providence LINK trolley system and fixed-route buses for 10 cents. If approved by the RIPTA board, the fare increases would take effect February 1, 2005.**

**“We thank Governor Carcieri and the State Budget Office for working hard with us on a deficit reduction proposal that will enable us to balance our Fiscal Year 2005 budget without service cuts, ” said**

**RIPTA General Manager Alfred Moscola. “The proposed fare increases will yield a modest amount of revenue and play a relatively small role in reducing the deficit. A major factor in decreasing this year’s deficit is the anticipated increase in payments from the Department of Human Services for an additional 4, 329 monthly bus passes for RlteCare enrollees. RIPTA’s commitment to leave unfilled several vacant positions, saving over \$600,000, is also an important part of this plan. It’s in line with the aggressive approach we’ve taken to reducing costs. We’ve done everything possible so that we will not have to make service cuts this fiscal year,” explained Moscola.**

**Under state law the Authority must post the hearing schedule 30 days prior to holding any public hearings. With the board vote coming today, November 17th, the posting will appear on November 19 in area newspapers, enabling public hearings to begin on December 20. All input from the public at the hearings will go to RIPTA’s board of directors in January and the board will vote on the fare increase proposal at its January meeting.**

**Proposed Fare Increases**

**The Authority is proposing to increase fares as follows:**

<b>Fare Media</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>Base Fare</b>	<b>\$1. 25</b>	<b>\$1. 50</b>
<b>Trolley (LINK)</b>	<b>\$1. 00</b>	<b>\$1. 50</b>

<b>ADA (Ride Program)</b>	<b>\$2. 50</b>	<b>\$3. 00</b>
<b>Short Zone</b>	<b>\$ .50</b>	<b>\$1. 50</b>
<b>Senior/Disabled (off peak)</b>	<b>\$ .60</b>	<b>\$ .75</b>
<b>RIPTIKS (10)</b>	<b>\$11 .25</b>	<b>\$13. 50</b>
<b>Student Tokens (10)</b>	<b>\$10 .60</b>	<b>\$12. 75</b>
<b>(Providence High School)</b>		

**The monthly bus pass fare of \$45 will remain the same.**

### **Schedule for Public Hearings on Proposed Fare Increases**

**The public hearings will be held in Warwick, Providence, Barrington, Narragansett and Newport according to the following schedule:**

**Monday, December 20, 2004    Tuesday, December 21, 2004**

**Newport Public Library                  University of Rhode Island**

**Large Meeting Room    Feinstein Providence Campus**

**Newport, RI 02840    Auditorium**

**Times:    80 Washington Street**

**2 pm-4 pm                                  Providence, RI 02903**

**6 pm-8pm                                  Times:**

**2 pm-4 pm**

**6 pm-8 pm**

**Wednesday, December 22, 2004**

**Wednesday, December 22, 2004**

**Warwick City Hall    Narragansett Town Hall**

**Council Chambers    Assembly Room**

**3275 Post Road      25 Fifth Avenue  
Warwick, RI 02886      Narragansett, RI 02882**

**Times:      Times:**

**2 pm-4 pm      2 pm-4 pm**

**6 pm-8 pm      6 pm-8 pm**

**Thursday, December 23, 2004**

**Barrington Public Library**

**2nd Floor Auditorium**

**281 County Road**

**Barrington, RI 02806**

**Times:**

**2 pm-4 pm**

**6 pm-8 pm**

**A 72-hour notice is required for persons with sensory impairment requiring auxiliary aids at public hearings. To request this service, members of the public should contact the RIPTA ADA Coordinator at 401-784-9553 (TDD) or 800-745-5555 (RI Relay TDD).**

**For information on RIPTA services, passengers may call 781-9400 or visit [ripta.com](http://ripta.com).**